

Farm Notes.

EARLY PLOWING FOR WHEAT.

If stubble ground intended for wheat is plowed so soon as the crop is off it will be nearly equal to a fallow. The rains that fall after plowing are absorbed by the soil, and help to make a good seed bed. One of their best effects is in sprouting scattering grain, which may then be highly cultivated under for green manure. Do not plow very deep and make the surface for wheat as compact as possible.

CHECKING TOMATO VINES.

Where tomatoes are grown in gardens or other very rich soil they will grow too much to vine at the expense of the fruit. Pinching or cutting off the ends of the vines checks this excessive growth and induces fruitfulness. In a large patch the work may be expeditiously and thoroughly done with the scythe. If some blossoms or even fruit are lopped off, what is left will be enough earlier and better to more than compensate the loss.

PEAS AS A FALLOW CROP.

It is an excellent plan to precede wheat with a pea crop. The protection which the vines give the soil during the Summer is almost equal to a dressing of manure. Peas exhaust land less than almost any other grain, and are at present prices a more profitable crop than wheat. Of late years the bug is much less troublesome than formerly, and farmers who have grown twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre of merchantable seed say that in proportion to labor required it was the easiest crop grown, as well as one of the most profitable.

FEEDING YOUNG PIGS.

Young animals of every kind gain faster than they do after they are older. Hence the necessity of giving all that can be eaten and digested. Extra feeding of this sort is the best way to force pigs until they are two or three weeks old. After that age they should be encouraged to eat all they will themselves to diminish the drain on the sow. But the digestion of young pigs is weak, so that very rich food should be avoided. Corn meal, if given exclusively, will make them fatter rather than grow. Oatmeal and milk constitute the best feed, next to that from the mother.

WARNING BY ELECTRICITY.

Vineyardists in some parts of California have learned to use electricity in guarding their vines from frost. They have thermometers arranged in different parts of the vineyard, with an apparatus attached to a wire connecting with the house, and which rings a bell whenever the temperature comes near the freezing point. Then everybody arises and all light fires in different parts of the vineyard, the smoke of which raises the temperature until danger is past. This frost bell, as it is called, has saved thousands of dollars to vineyardists, and is now considered indispensable in a climate where sudden falls of temperature are always liable to occur in the night.

MANURING CLOVER SOD.

If clover has been cut early enough the second growth will start rapidly without manure. If it has been left until in full blossom, or the heads just turning, the aftermath will be small whatever is done. Sowing gypsum or land plaster is helpful, as it helps to retain moisture on the leaves. Coarse manure should not be used unless with the intention of leaving all after-growth to lie on the ground for manure. It will smother the clover so as to partly offset whatever good it may do. It is surprising how thin a covering over a clover plant will suffice to smother it. Even the scattering hay is injurious, and for this reason should be raked up and removed, more to get it where it will not hurt the clover than for the value of the hay.

THRESHING BY STEAM.

Steam power has superseded that of the horse in threshing, as surely as the latter did the old method of threshing with the flail. Threshing is always hard work, but the latest method of doing it, while it has let horses out, has made it harder than ever for men. There is no let-up while the powerful cylinder is taking in great forkfuls of straw and grain, and discharging the latter at the rate of a bushel or more per minute. With horse power occasional rest is required, but the steam thresher works unceasingly, except the brief time that men require for meals.

But the farmer loses something if while threshing he has not enough extra help to keep his teams busily and profitably at work. There is always enough for teams to do at this season, and it is a misfortune to have them lying idly in the barn while they should be doing it. But threshing time requires so many hands to do it properly that none can usually be spared to work with teams.

EXCESSIVE PRICES FOR PIGS.

No matter how cheap pork may be the price of young pigs suffers little diminution, though they may be rather slower of sale. If the buyer is at all anxious he never disputes about the price, as one or two dollars more or less does not seem much for the 300-pound porker he already sees in his imagination. It certainly does not pay to throw away milk, swill and other refuse for lack of some pigs to feed it to; but occasionally the anxiety to avoid this loss causes men to pay for little pigs nearly or quite as much as they will be worth after keeping through the Summer and fattening. A pig is almost the only young animal that can usually be sold for more than it is worth. It is owing probably to the fact that it will eat so much that would otherwise be wasted or become a positive nuisance.

OVERFEEDING HORSES.

Horses, especially those hard at work, suffer more from overfeeding than from almost any other cause. They may not eat too much, in fact, overfeeding is often a cause for a horse not eating enough. It is much easier to put too much hay or grain before a horse and let him eat what he will and muss and soil the remainder, than it is to give just the right amount and see that all is eaten cleanly. No animal is more delicate in its food than a horse. If the manger is half filled with some hay or other feed the odor from this takes away his appetite for what is freshly placed before him. Disregard of this fact is one reason why horses often grow poor on cut feed moistened and fed to them in warm weather. It sours very quickly at this season, and a very little left in the feed box will soon destroy a horse's appetite.

OUR GREAT CATTLE INDUSTRY.

In 1850 the number of cattle in the United States was about 18,000,000, in 1880 it was 36,000,000, and in 1885 the estimate is 45,000,000. About one-half this number may be estimated as breeders, and which are marketed, which may also include loss. This leaves about 23,000,000 for sale, and if we grant so large a number is marked annually and estimating each animal to weigh 1,000 pounds, we have but little over one pound of beef per day for each inhabitant of this country. Of course we do not consume so large a quantity, but the home market is large, and the demand for beef so great, that no fears need be entertained regarding the sale of all that can be produced, while the increase of cattle is met by a corresponding increase of population. Great as is the number of cattle now raised, it will be still greater when the present system now practiced on the plains is abolished, and farms take the place of ranges, for more cattle can then be kept on a smaller space. Care and attention, shelter, regularity of feeding, and the use of improved breeds, which will be possible under a better system, will give greater weight and better quality. Although the number of cattle will be increased, the number of pounds of beef will be still larger, and we guarantee that prices will then be equally as good and the profits larger. More milk, butter and cheese will also be produced, while scientific invention will enable extra production of beef to be sent to any portion of the world without the necessity of transporting live stock, and even now it is being done to a limited extent.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

—A good many people will be surprised to learn that the biggest building in the United States will be the city hall of Philadelphia, now in process of construction. Between \$11,000,000 and \$12,000,000 have been expended upon it since 1872. It is estimated to cover 2,800 more square feet than the capitol at Washington. The tower on the north side will be surmounted by a statue of Penn., and its extreme height when completed will be 535 feet. It has now reached a height of 270 feet.

Correspondence.

FROM EASTERN CAROLINA.

WASHINGTON, N. C.,
July 31st, '86.

ED. PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—Thinking you would like to hear something of the crops in the Eastern part of the State, I jot down a few points. I have been through Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Cowan, Bertie, parts of Hertford and Northampton. In the lower counties the old corn is good; the late crops of corn and cotton are not promising, but have improved in the last ten days. In the upper counties the crops are looking well. They have had very much rain which put the farmers in the grass, but from the looks in the Bertie section I think them pretty well up; in fact I must think so, because I passed several churches in Bertie county and it seemed as if all the surrounding section was represented; within seven miles of Lewiston I think there must have been 3,000 people on the grounds, and the Methodists were holding a three day's camp-meeting at Murfreesboro.

I met here L. C. E. Ward, late editor of the Edenton (Albemarle) *Enquirer*, who is in the banking business, which I think speaks well for the Eastern paper business. He seems to be doing well, and I hope that banking may be as good with him as the newspaper trade seems to have been.

The greatest excitement now is the coming convention at Elizabeth City on August the 11th. Maj. L. C. Latham is now in Washington, I think, looking up his interest. The race will be hotly contested by the present incumbent, Skinner, and some dozen others.

Washington is building up and is a nice town. Edenton also is building up, and at last seems to be waking up to the importance of making homes for a growing population. The lumber trade is a large business in this section. I notice large rafts of lumber in all the creeks and rivers, and many new saw mills, some very large.

The watermelon crop has been very poor and the melons small.

I think from what I see that the farmers seem to be taking THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER'S advice. They have a little of everything planted; corn, peas, cotton, oats and wheat, and I see many patches of tobacco from one fourth to three acres, which looks well, and I do not see, if they know how to cure it, why they should not profit by raising it.

Respectfully yours,
TRAVELER.

THE CUTLOOK IN STOKES.

WILSON'S STORE, STOKES CO.,
N. C., August 3rd, '86.

ED. PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—As requested, I will send you what I believe a fair report of the crops in Meadows Township:

There will not be a full crop of corn, owing to excessive rains in May and June, and now dry weather. I think as to the tobacco crop it will be safe to say there will not be half as much made as was anticipated when planted. I have been over the neighborhood and can safely say, from what I have seen, the prospects for tobacco are as gloomy as in 1880, the very dry year. In fact taking all of Stokes county, there cannot be made a half crop, and it will be small and with but little body. The wheat was not good and much of it was damaged in the shock. Oats were very good.

Yours, etc.,
JOEL F. HILL.

STATE SCHOOLS BEFORE AND SINCE THE WAR.

The number of white children attending school in this State according to the last report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction was 167,000, the average attendance being 104,000. The entire number of white children was 314,000. From this it appears that about fifty per cent. of the white children in the State did not attend the public schools in that year, while the average attendance was only about thirty-three per cent. The report for 1860 was, whole number of white children 200,855, while the total number taught in the public schools was 105,048. Rather more than fifty per cent. of the white children attended the public schools in 1860, and the average attendance was probably far greater than at present.

The school term then was three and two-thirds months. Now the average school term is less than three months. It would appear, then, that the common schools, so far as the whites are concerned, were better in North Carolina before the war than they are now. We speak of public schools. It is well known that before the war there were relatively many more private schools than at present. When we consider this it is evident that the cause of education, so far as the whites are concerned, is not on such a substantial basis in North Carolina to-day as it was in 1860. Twenty-five years ago there were probably not 50,000 who were not being educated. Now, allowing 20,000 as the number taught in private schools, it seems that there are 127,000 white children who are not attending schools. We use these figures legitimately and for the purpose of comparing the educational situation in 1860 and at present. We do not insist that they show accurately the number of children growing up in entire ignorance, for many children over fifteen years of age having learned to read and write no longer attend school. As this is the case now, so was it the case before the war. We institute the comparison to show that we had in North Carolina prior to the war an educational spirit quite as emphatic as that of to-day, and also a more practical system, with a longer term, relatively more pupils and perhaps better teachers. Those who sneer at Old North Carolina do not quite understand the facts.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

FARMERS' CLUB.

We are glad to see a disposition on the part of the farmers of the State to organize clubs for their own protection and advancement. It is a move in the right direction and if the proper care be taken to avoid the mistakes which were made by the Granger organization, and to adopt and carry out all of its best features, only good can result to those interested. We would strongly urge our friends to at once begin the organization of clubs all over the county and as early as possible begin to receive those benefits which must necessarily accrue from the discussion of subjects in which they have a common interest, and from the advancement of ideas of a practical nature. The *News and Farm* pledges its support to all such worthy moves and throws open its columns to the free discussion of agricultural subjects. Any one desiring information in regard to the plan of organizing a farmers' club can obtain such information by addressing Col. L. L. Polk, Winston.—*Kernersville News and Farm.*

THE TOBACCO CROP.

The reports in regard to the tobacco continue to be of a most discouraging nature. Farmers from Caswell and Person counties in North Carolina, and Pittsylvania and Halifax counties in Virginia, all report the crop as in a very bad condition. They say that when the tobacco becomes dwarfed and "stunted" by dry weather that good seasons will bring it out in a wonderful degree, but where this condition is brought about by excessive rains there is no outcome in it. Many farmers report the crop a failure, and none can be found who will say that as much as half a crop will be made. Already the market is affected by the assured shortage in the growing crop, and we predict a greater advance in prices as soon as the speculators are convinced that there is truly no chance for anything like an average crop, either in weight or quality.—*Milton Advertiser.*

THAT POTATO CROP.

The *Citizen* yesterday stated that Mr. James Patton, the father of Capt. Thomas W. Patton of our city, once produced on one acre of ground in Buncombe 1,100 bushels of Irish potatoes. We were informed yesterday by a member of the family that it was 1,300 measured bushels, instead of 1,100, and the acre which did so much for this country and Mr. Patton was the acre upon which now stand The Bank of Asheville, Kepler's store, A. H. Jones & Son's store, Cooley's store, and immediately in rear thereof. So it seems this little acre is determined to keep to the front in big things.—*Asheville Citizen.*

A PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

How He Builds and Manages His Silos.

A reporter, who feels a special pride in the neat farms which are such distinctive and pleasing features of Raleigh township, yesterday enjoyed very greatly a visit to the well-regulated and productive farm of Dr. Richard H. Lewis, which is just beyond the picturesque village of Oberlin. The land is well situated and though it was in poor condition when he became its owner, yet he has been able by a liberal use of money, patience and perseverance to secure such results as stamp him as a good farmer. Modesty is rather rare these days, yet Dr. Lewis has more than his share of it and he doesn't wish to be considered as a "model farmer." Possibly he does not know how good a farmer he is, for his broad acres speak for themselves and for him too. He has corn and peas, which succeeded good crops of oats and clover; and the fields which stretch far away to the westward are as soft and refreshing to the tired eye as any mountain landscape, so tender and so general is their greenness. Just now Dr. Lewis is busy filling his silos with ensilage, and this process is interesting. One silo is full. It is double, twelve feet deep, twenty-four feet long and twelve feet wide and holds 100 tons of ensilage. The other silo is seventy-three feet in length, thirteen feet deep and ten feet wide. This is its depth in the earth. It is excavated neatly. From the ground level board walls rise to a height of five feet. The planks are painted with crude petroleum. At one compartment of this silo a small cutting machine, operated by a three-horse power machine, was cutting corn stalks into inch lengths. Through a chute the material as cut was poured into the silo, where two men forked it out and kept the general surface level. The machine cuts thirty tons a day. The ensilage is of corn. The stalks are cut just as the ears begin to harden. It is then mature and yields the best results. It is hauled to the cutter in wagons, and yesterday seven wagons were kept busy supplying the one cutting machine. The small silo (already filled) holds 100 tons, and the large one which is being filled holds 225 tons. When filled, each compartment is covered with planks, upon which are stones to weight them down. The ensilage shrinks, losing about one-third in volume. It need not be covered at all and will not spoil. The big silo is cheaply constructed, of ordinary timber, with clapboard roof. Water can not run into it, as drainage is provided for all rainfall. The 100 tons in the filled silo were cut from six and one-half acres of fairly good land. It is calculated that two and half tons of ensilage are equal a ton of good hay; so that the 100 tons which these six and half acres yielded equal forty tons of hay. If put in hay the land, which was hillside, would not, with the best of seasons, have yielded over one and a half tons of hay an acre. It cost Dr. Lewis \$1.50 a ton to put this ensilage in the filled silo; that including seed, planting, cultivating, manuring, cutting and packing and interest on the silo. The small silo is filled with corn ensilage. Two compartments of the large one will be also. The third compartment in the latter will be filled with peas. These will be put in without cutting. In ensilage corn Dr. Lewis has twenty-three acres, and ten in milo-maze.

There are many interesting sights on Dr. Lewis' farm besides the silos. His beautiful cattle, Guernsey thoroughbreds, are as pretty as one could wish to see. They are well cared for and stand in tidy stalls. The calves are kept in a lot near the dairy and it is one of the farm sights to see the little fellows feeding. Buttermilk is their favorite beverage, and on it they are fed liberally. They are never allowed to suck the cows. Dr. Lewis prefers the Guernsey to the Jersey cattle. He likes their larger size and thinks them the best butter-makers. Dr. Lewis has made many sensible and labor-saving improvements, all entirely practical, at his farm, dairy and stockyards.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

—A Philadelphia physician says that a great deal of what passes for heart disease is only mild dyspepsia, that nervousness is commonly bad temper, and that two-thirds of the so-called malaria is nothing but laziness. Probably he doesn't tell his patients so, but there is doubtless a good deal of truth in what he says.